IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 of page 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide an improved and simplified output queuing method for forwarding packets in sequence. The invention discloses a ~~FIFO (First In First Out) node sharing method for forwarding packets in sequence in Ethernet switching network.~~ an output queuing method for forwarding packets in a switching network, wherein a global output queue, shared by port output queues related to ports in the switching network is used for forwarding multicast packets.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention achieves the above-identified object by providing a new output queuing method for forwarding the packets in sequence. The output queuing method is used in a switching network containing a number of ports. Each port is related to a port output queue while a global output queue is shared by all port output queues. A plurality of FIFO (First In First Out) ~~block is~~ blocks are allocated ~~into each port output queue~~ to all of the port output queues and the global output queue. The FIFO block contains a number of FIFO nodes. In one embodiment of the output queuing method, ~~Each~~ each FIFO node contains a skip field and a multicast count field (or a port mask field). In the method, the type and the destination port of the received packet are determined. The skip field and the multicast count field (or port mask field) of the related FIFO node in the port output queue or the global output queue are then set according to the type of the received packet. The

-2-

packet is sent out or skipped from the port output queue/global output queue based on the value in the skip field and the multicast count field.